

Dilapidated condition of monuments/heritage sites

†*98. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several monuments/heritage sites in the country are in dilapidated condition;

(b) the State-wise list of the sites that have been indentified where monuments are in a dilapidated condition; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to renovate the historical monuments especially in Bihar, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Conservation work of protected monuments under Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is executed regularly and due to continuous care and maintenance they are not in dilapidated condition.

(c) Comprehensive conservation programme for protected monument in the country, including Bihar, is drawn every year as per the budgetary allocations and works are executed following the archaeological norms and principles. Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process, with emphasis on maintaining their originality and integrity, which is being followed by the ASI.

Protection of Taj Mahal from environmental hazards

*99. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any action plan to protect the Taj Mahal from environmental hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of trees have been cut in order to construct a multi-level car parking in the ecologically sensitive area around the Taj Mahal, and

(d) if so, what is Government's action plan to restore the lost vegetation, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is making continuous efforts for and conservation and care of Taj Mahal. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

essential conservation works are executed regularly as per requirements of different locations at the monument. Scientific cleaning and treatment of marble surface is performed at regular intervals. The ambient air quality is monitored continuously to keep a watch on the air pollution levels. Tree plantation around the Taj Mahal has also been done for improvement of environment. In addition structural health monitoring is done through Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, Survey of India etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such cutting of trees has been done by ASI.

Inhuman condition of jails in the country

*100. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the inhuman condition of jails in the country and the increasing instances of torture by the inmates;

(b) if so, what corrective steps have been taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government has any action plan ready for prison reforms in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) Certain instances have come to the notice of the Government in this regard.

“Prisons” is a State subject as per entry 4 of List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and the administration and management of prisons is primarily the responsibility of respective State Governments.

With a view to improving the condition of prisons, the Government of India has been issuing several guidelines on prison administration to the States and Union Territories from time to time. The Government of India prepared a Model Prison Manual in 2016 and circulated it to all States and UTs for their guidance. The Manual contains dedicated chapters on Custodial Management, Medical Care, Emergencies, Prison Discipline and Inspection of Prisons which address the issues of prison reforms and corrective steps needed to improve the conditions in prisons. In addition, the Government of India has also been bringing the directions issued by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Prison administration to the notice of all State Prison authorities for their guidance and compliance. The Ministry of Home Affairs also convenes the meetings of DG/IG Prisons periodically to address the issues related to prison administration and prison reforms.